

NORTHBROOK, IL – This morning, BP America Chairman and President Bob Malone announced the BP will halt its plan to dump more pollution into Lake Michigan as part of a \$3.8 billion expansion of the Whiting, Ind., refinery. The following statement regarding the announcement should be attributed to U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.):

“More than a month ago, we learned of BP’s plan to dump 54 percent more ammonia and 35 percent more total suspended solids into Lake Michigan. The more than 30 million Americans who rely on the Great Lakes for their drinking water can rest easier today now that BP has stopped its plan to increase pollution in our lake. I believe BP backed down for three reasons. First, tens of thousands of Americans signed petitions against BP. Second, Congress was moving to pass our bill that would cancel \$400 million in tax credits for BP. Third, scientists at Argonne National Laboratory showed BP that they could contain their pollution.

“As we move forward, we need to work to change our laws to ensure that similar situations do not occur in the future. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management failed the people of the Midwest in issuing BP a permit to increase water pollution. In the coming months, I will work with my colleagues in Congress to address the improvement of the Clean Water Act. It’s not enough to simply maintain water quality. We must work to improve and clean our drinking water. The Great Lakes are our most important natural resource and we should treat them so.”